

IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

Inside this Edition:

Federal barley research
dollars under pressure

Line-up of UI Extension
cereal schools

2012 malting barley con-
tracting still underway

**Idaho barley
check-off dollars
at work...IBC pro-
vides cost-share
funding for annual
extension cereal
schools.**

Growers are encouraged to attend one of these **nine extension cereal schools**. Topics this year include: variety performance, stripe rust and insect control and crop insurance:

Jan. 31 - Bonners Ferry fairgrounds (8:30 am)

Feb. 1 - Troy Lions Club (8:15 am)

Feb. 2 - Greencreek Hall (8:15 a.m.)

Feb. 7 - Burley Inn (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 8 - Pocatello Red Lion Hotel (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 9 - Idaho Falls Red Lion Hotel (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 9 - Ashton Trails Inn (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 10 - Preston Robinson Bldg (9:00 a.m.)

Mar. 8 - Hailey Armory Bldg (9:00 a.m.).

IBC embraces strategies to counter declining federal barley research dollars

IDAHO LEAPED INTO THE NUMBER ONE BARLEY PRODUCTION SPOT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2011

, due to many factors. Among these was the difficult production problems last summer in the historically largest producing state of North Dakota, but another significant factor is the strong investment by malting and brewing companies in our state because of our reliable barley production and quality.

Idaho's well known yield and quality performance is the direct result of our state's favorable growing conditions, excellent farmers who skillfully navigate a wide range of agronomic and economic challenges and the significant federal and state research infrastructure that has been built in Idaho.

This **center of barley research excellence** is based at the **ARS National Small Grains & Potato Germplasm Research Facility in Aberdeen**, dating back to 1922 when the first federal barley breeding effort was launched at the state's fledgling research and extension center. Today's state-of-the-art federal research campus was built in 1988 and was expanded by the addition of an Advanced Grain Genetics Laboratory in 2006 (\$5.1 million, 12,000 sq ft addition).

The mission of this federal barley breeding program - the only one of its kind in the country - has become even more important in light of Idaho's expanding leadership role in barley production. And their research has paid big dividends for producers over the last several decades, most recently in a significant advancement in the level of heart-healthy fiber content in experimental food barley lines under development at the Aberdeen facility.

But these exciting opportunities come at a time of big budget cuts, which will slow the pace of new barley variety releases. **The IBC believes the**

solution is to craft new partnerships with our federal scientists and brewers and food companies to continue putting this cutting edge science to work for our producers.

ARS barley breeding program at Aberdeen has taken a 58% reduction in discretionary funding in the past 10 years.



Update on Federal Barley Research Funding

contributed by Dr. Michael P. Davis, Executive Secretary, National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC). IBC is one of several state barley members of the NBIC. The NBIC is currently chaired by Dr. Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho cereal agronomist/pathologist based in Idaho Falls and Aberdeen. IBC is represented on the NBIC board by North Idaho Barley Commissioner Tim Dillin, Bonners Ferry.

Federal funding for agricultural research allocated through the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) declined sharply in both FY2011 and FY2012, which has had a direct impact on national barley research efforts.

FY2011 Agriculture Appropriations

	<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>Change from FY2010</u>
USDA-ARS	\$1.133 Billion	(\$44 Million) (3.7%)
USDA-NIFA	\$698.7 Million	(\$126 Million) (9.3%)

Earmarks eliminated for all Federal agencies - research grants designated by members of Congress, known as earmarks, were eliminated in FY 2011 and are not expected to come back any time soon. This means reduced or no funding for projects that have directly benefitted barley producers and industry, including:

- ♦ \$290,000 eliminated - ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul – Ug99 Wheat & Barley Research
- ♦ \$547,000 eliminated - NIFA Barley for Rural Development Special Research Grant - this grant money was shared equally by the University of Idaho and Montana State University.
- ♦ \$471,000 eliminated - NIFA US Barley Genome Project Special Research Grant (collaborative barley genetic mapping effort involving multiple institutions and scientists).

This **\$1.018 million loss** in the two NIFA special research grants is a set back for barley research. On the positive side, the barley and wheat research communities were awarded a **\$25 million/5 year competitive grant for the USDA-NIFA Triticeae (Wheat & Barley) Coordinated Agricultural Project, otherwise known as the T-CAP, to accelerate vital work in wheat and barley germplasm improvement to meet the challenges of cereal plant diseases, water stress and nitrogen use efficiency.** It is estimated that barley will receive about \$2.2 million in funding per year from this T-CAP project.

FY2012 Agriculture Appropriations

	<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>Change from FY2011</u>
USDA-ARS	\$1.095 Billion	(\$39 Million) (3.4%)
USDA-NIFA	\$705.6 Million	+\$6.9 Million +1.0%

The ARS cuts are being achieved by the closure of 9 research laboratories and one program. Fortunately, no small grains research locations or programs were included in these closures, but ALL ARS programs including the barley breeding program at Aberdeen, ID have taken substantial cuts in operating funds.

NBIC and its allies, the National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC) and National Oat Improvement Committee (NOIC) have been very successful in past years in substantially enhancing funding for programs and locations of importance to small grains, thereby helping to keep them fiscally viable and relevant and less likely to be targeted for elimination.

While saving money long-term, these ARS research facility closures mean more short-term costs which were not directly covered by Congress, resulting in an **across the board 1.5% reduction in funds to all locations and a hiring freeze**. It also means that scientists currently working at closed facilities will be given a chance to be reassigned to other facilities with vacancies. **The net effect will be a reduction in funding for all ARS programs in FY2012, with a resulting decrease in their capacity to conduct research.**

Prospects for FY 2013 are not very promising - With the current federal budget situation and potential large across the board cuts looming as a result of the failure of the so called "Super Committee" to reach a deficit reduction budget agreement, **prospects for FY2013 are not promising**.

The NBIC, which represents the entire US barley community of growers, researchers, and end-users, will be making its annual visits with Congress and USDA research administrators in Washington DC, on March 5-7. In the current budget climate, the NBIC will not be advocating for new small grains research funding, but we will continue making the case with Congress not to cut further, pointing out the benefits of these small grain research investments to the wider economy.

With Congress' ability to direct funding to their priority projects now severely curtailed, most program and location funding decisions are now in the hands of USDA research administrators. The NBIC has a good relationship with these federal agricultural research administrators and will continue to work with them in partnership in these difficult budget times to ensure a viable and well focused national barley research program.



2012 Malting Barley Contracts

The 2012 malting barley contract season got off to a strong start last September, with many companies quickly filling their contract needs for the coming production season.

A few companies are continuing to contract this winter, including:

Anheuser Busch Co. - contact Tim Pella in Idaho Falls at 208-524-1080.

InteGrow Malt LLC - contact John Zietz in Idaho Falls at 208-528-5147.

Great Western Malting Co. launched its contracting effort in North Idaho this month. Growers should contact their local elevators for more information.